

# Persevere in Peace and Holiness

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Pastor Mark Turner

Hebrews 12:12-14

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

**Everyone is a Theologian**, the issue is what kind are you?

- Our pastor warned they were *'dull of hearing'<sup>5:11</sup>*, and they *'ought to be teachers'<sup>5:12</sup>*. He compared them to babies<sup>5:13,14</sup>.
- God's Word must be important to believers<sup>2Ti3:16-17</sup>

In Hebrews thus far we've learned:

- Jesus is superior to prophets and angels. Believers must pay closer attention to what they have heard<sup>2:1</sup>.
- Jesus became a man to be our high priest and make propitiation for sins. Therefore, believers must consider Jesus and not harden their hearts<sup>3:1,8</sup>.
- The Exodus generation was unable to enter their rest due to their unbelief. Therefore, believers should fear lest they also fail to enter<sup>4:1</sup>.
- There remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. Therefore, believers must strive to enter that rest<sup>4:11</sup>.
- Solid food for the mature. Believers must leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity<sup>6:1</sup>.
- Believers have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus. Therefore, they are to draw near to God with a true heart in full assurance of faith<sup>10:19-22</sup>.
- Believers are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Therefore, they are to throw off every weight and sin and run their race with endurance<sup>12:1</sup>.
- All discipline seems painful rather than pleasant. However, that same discipline brings righteousness to those trained by it. Therefore, believers are to lift their drooping hands and strengthen their weak knees and make straight paths for their feet<sup>12:12</sup>.

**The Transformed Life of the New Covenant Believer**

- We are to run our race<sup>12:1</sup>, even when tired<sup>12:12</sup>
- Good theology is important:

All adversity we endure as believers is part of God's sovereign design for our good and our holiness. So knowing God is using the current situation allows us to grow in holiness!

**God Designs His Children's Pain for their Good and their Holiness so Believers must Endure and Help Others**

**1. You Must Endure**

- Picture a weary marathon runner... drooping hands... Isa35:3-8
- Pastor already warned of our need for endurance<sup>Heb10:35-38</sup>
- Gospel is our strength – this is not what we must do, but merely faith in what Jesus has done and is doing in us!
- Rest in the Gospel, trust God to be working<sup>James1:7</sup>

**2. You Also Must Help Others Endure**

- We are to be looking for any weak hands or knees (others)
- Not unique, previously 3:12-13; 10:24-25
- The Church is Christ's body where we care as family ought

**Since God Designs His Children's Trials for their Good and their Holiness, Believers must focus on 2 Godly Goals:**

**1. Pursue Peace**

- Key of Gospel: we have peace<sup>Rom5:1</sup>;
- Gospel believers are to be peacemakers<sup>Mt5:9;Rom12:18</sup>
- To often we attack the instruments (other people, circumstances) God uses in our lives to sanctify us<sup>Jms1:2-3;Ro5:3-5</sup>

**2. Pursue Holiness**

- Strive for holiness, sanctification. WSCQ35. Rom 6:22
- Our salvation comes by faith in Jesus' holiness, now we're to be holy like Him<sup>Rm8:29</sup>. Works are proof<sup>2m2:17</sup>
- We are to strive for holiness (sanctification)<sup>Phil3:12-14</sup>